

ARKANSAS Profile: Jobs and the Environment

The economy of Arkansas supports numerous jobs related to environmental protection or clean technology which complements environmental protection.

- Arkansas had approximately 11,578 green jobs in 2007.¹
- Arkansas is home to over 1,100 clean businesses.¹
- The Arkansas Economic Development Commission and the Arkansas Delta Wired region estimate that a transition to a “bioeconomy” in Arkansas would create more than 25,000 green and supporting jobs.²
- The University of Arkansas at Little Rock Institute of Economic Advancement estimates that the production and sale of 60 million gallons of biodiesel in Arkansas could create more than 1,500 jobs and generate more than \$11 million in new state and local tax revenue.³

There are over 1,100 companies in Arkansas that currently support the development, deployment or maintenance of clean technology and could benefit from increased demand for products and services.

All companies and employment info, unless otherwise noted with an asterisk, come from the Environmental Defense Fund’s Green Jobs Map.⁴

**Employment information for the companies with an asterisk come from the case studies below.*

- Sampling of companies supporting energy efficient equipment or appliances:
 - Harry G. Barr Company, Fort Smith, AR – **100-249 employees**
 - Central States Manufacturing Inc., Lowell, AR – **50-99 employees**
 - Modern Window and Door, Hot Springs, AR – **50-99 employees**
 - Siplast Inc., Arkadelphia, AR – **50-99 employees**
 - Arkansas Lamp Manufacturing, Van Buren, AR – **1-49 employees**
 - Ashley Lighting Inc., Trumann, AR – **1-49 employees**
 - Centria, Sheridan, AR – **1-49 employees**
 - Precision Glass Blending Corp., Greenwood, AR – **1-49 employees**
 - Quality Millwork Inc., Springdale, AR – **1-49 employees**
- Sampling of companies supporting renewable energy:
 - Chemtura, El Dorado, AR – **over 5,000 employees**

¹ Pew Charitable Trusts. 2009. The Clean Energy Economy: Repowering Jobs, Businesses, and Investments Across America. http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/uploadedFiles/Clean_Economy_Report_Web.pdf

² Arkansas Economic Development Commission. 2009. The Arkansas Delta's Opportunity in the \$140 Billion Bioeconomy Highlighted in 5-State Regional Study. <http://arkansasenergy.org/news/read-article.aspx?id=7444&article=The+Arkansas+Delta's+Opportunity+in+the+%24140+Billion+Bioeconomy+Highlighted+in+5-State+Regional+Study>

³ Arkansas Matters. 2009. At the Legislature: Plan to Create 1,500 New Jobs. http://arkansasmatters.com/fulltext/?nxd_id=201811.

⁴ <http://www.edf.org/page.cfm?tagID=34065&state=AR>

- Owens Corning, Fort Smith, AR – over **5,000 employees**
- Tyson Foods, Inc., Springdale, AR – over **5,000 employees**
- *LM Glasfiber, Little Rock, AR – **630 employees**
- FutureFuel Corp. – **464 full-time employees**⁵
- Priority Wire and Cable Inc., Little Rock, AR – **100-249 employees**
- Window Mart, Royal, AR – **100-249 employees**
- *Nordex USA, Jonesboro, AR – **70 employees**
- Guardian Industries Corp., Rogers, AR – **50-99 employees**
- Rheem Ruud Manufacturing Co., Fort Smith, AR – **1-49 employees**
- Stitt Energy Systems Inc., Rogers, AR – **1-49 employees**
- Sampling of companies supporting alternative fuel/high efficiency vehicles:
 - *ElectroCraft Arkansas Inc., Searcy, AR – **125 employees**
- Sampling of other green businesses:
 - Evergreen Packaging, Pine Bluff, AR – **over 1,000 employees**⁶
 - *Southwest Power Pool Inc., Little Rock, AR – **400 employees**
 - Davis Rubber Company, Little Rock, AR – **1-49 employees**

Many new jobs have been or are expected to be created in Arkansas related to clean technologies since 2009.

Renewable Energy Jobs

- *LM Glasfiber*, Little Rock, AR⁷
 - The company built its new headquarters and wind turbine manufacturing facility in Little Rock in 2008, creating over **630 jobs**.
 - Expected expansion will increase the number of employees to over **1,000** by 2015.
- *Polymarin Composites*⁸
 - Invested \$16 million into its Little Rock wind turbine rotor blade manufacturing facility and created approximately **630 jobs** between 2008 and 2011.
- *Nordex USA*, Jonesboro, AR⁹

⁵ For Novelly, Plan B on Biofuels. August 25, 2010.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/stories/2010/08/23/story2.html>

⁶ Evergreen Packaging dedicates \$53 million expansion. May 26, 2010. <http://arkansasedc.com/news-and-media-resources/news/2010/may/evergreen-packaging-dedicates-53-million-expansion.aspx>

⁷ LM Glasfiber doubles North American capacity with the grand opening of its new regional headquarters and blade production facility. October 28, 2008.

<http://www.lmwindpower.com/News/Archive/View%20News.aspx?id={795A79E2-6A22-40F0-ADA1-7530629AAEB1}&y=2008>

⁸ Polymarin Composites to Move Into Arkansas Facility. October 14, 2008

http://www.nawindpower.com/e107_plugins/content/content.php?content.2971

⁹ Nordex opens for business in Arkansas with opening of wind turbine plant. October 29, 2010.

<http://arkansasedc.com/news-and-media-resources/news/2010/oct/nordex-opens-for-business-in-arkansas-with-grand-opening-of-wind-turbine-plant.aspx>

- Nordex opened its first wind turbine manufacturing plant in late 2010, **creating 70 jobs** between September and December 2010.
- Between 2010 and 2014, the plant is estimated to create up to **700 jobs** in Jonesboro and 1,000 jobs nationally.
- *SN Tech Inc. and ElectroCraft Arkansas Inc., Searcy, AR*¹⁰
 - Hired **55 new employees** in late 2010 to produce an ultra-efficient motor at ElectroCraft's manufacturing facility.
- *Mitsubishi Power Systems Americas, Inc., Fort Smith, AR*¹¹
 - Broke ground on a \$100 million wind turbine nacelle manufacturing plant, which is expected to create approximately **330 jobs** and be operational by the fall of 2011.
- *Beckmann Volmer, Osceola, AR*¹²
 - In May 2010 announced that it is investing \$10 million in a new wind turbine component manufacturing facility, which will create approximately **300 jobs**.
- *Southwest Power Pool Inc., Little Rock, AR*¹³
 - Announced in February 2010 that it will build a new corporate headquarters in Little Rock, where they will add **200 new jobs** by 2012.

Energy Efficiency Jobs

- *ARRA Weatherization Programs*¹⁴
 - Created nearly **160 jobs** as of November 2010 and weatherized more than 2,000 homes.
- *Arkansas Energy Office Green Jobs Training*¹⁵
 - Awarded grants to two state colleges to provide energy efficiency jobs training for up to **600 people**.

Arkansas has a handful of state policies that support or encourage clean technology, including technologies related to SCRs or scrubbers, energy efficiency, renewable energy and clean/more efficient automobiles.

¹⁰ ElectroCraft, SN Tech partner to produce 'green' motors in Searcy. August 18, 2010.

<http://arkansasenergy.org/news/read-article.aspx?id=8228&article=ElectroCraft%2c+SN+Tech+partner+to+produce+green+motors+in+Searcy>

¹¹ Mitsubishi salutes the public-private partnership that brought a \$100 million wind turbine manufacturing facility to Arkansas. October 7, 2010. <http://arkansasenergy.org/news/read-article.aspx?id=8328&article=Mitsubishi+salutes+the+public-private+partnership+that+brought+a+%24100+million+wind+turbine+manufacturing+facility+to+Arkansas>

¹² Beckmann Volmer to locate new manufacturing facility in Osceola. May 20, 2010. <http://arkansasenergy.org/news/read-article.aspx?id=8020&article=Beckmann+Volmer+to+locate+new+manufacturing+facility+in+Osceola>

¹³ Southwest Power Pool to build corporate headquarters in Little Rock. February 26, 2010. <http://arkansasenergy.org/news/read-article.aspx?id=7760&article=Southwest+Power+Pool+to+build+corporate+headquarters+in+Little+Rock>

¹⁴ Arkansas Receives Additional Funding for Weatherization Program. November 2010.

http://arkansasenergy.org/media/332253/energizingarkansas_nov2010_ag.pdf

¹⁵ 600 Arkansans to Receive Training for Green Jobs. February 26, 2010. <http://arkansasenergy.org/news/read-article.aspx?id=7759&article=600+Arkansans+to+Receive+Training+For+Green+Jobs>

- [Wind Energy Manufacturing Tax Incentive \(HB 2330\)](#): Up to 100% income tax exemption
- [Revolving Loan Fund](#): \$10,000,000 total for industrial energy technology, maximum incentive of \$2 million
- [Small Business Revolving Loan Fund](#): Up to \$65,000 in low-interest loans for small businesses to implement pollution control measures or energy efficiency projects
- [Sustainable Business Design Revolving Loan Fund](#): \$9.5 million in ARRA funding to finance building efficiency measures; funding expires in March 2012
- [Energy Efficiency Resource Standard](#): Utilities must reduce electricity sales 0.25% by 2011, 0.50% by 2012, and 0.75% by 2013; must reduce natural gas sales by 0.2% by 2011, 0.3% by 2012, and 0.4% by 2013
- [Incentives](#): handful of additional tax incentives, grant programs, rebate programs, performance-based incentives, and utility programs to incentivize energy efficiency and renewable energy installations; programs exist at the state, county, and local levels